LEAFLETS

of the Southern California Botanists

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# President's Message

Greetings Botanists!

It's looking like another great year for Southern California botany! Word on the street from our Cacti of California workshop class is that Anza Borrego is officially poppin! A little later than usual, but better late than never. Get those hand lenses ready as we head into another above average precip Spring and Summer. Most of SoCal is recording around 150% above normal with some outliers including Death Valley which saw the resurfacing of Lake Manly. Did you make the trip with kayak, paddle board, and/or pack raft in tow for a chance to paddle the elusive ancient lake? What other pleasant surprises does this year hold for us? Well, we hope you are looking forward to all the fun activities we have in store for YOU! As mentioned earlier, we have already hit the ground running with a 'sold out' Cacti of California workshop. We also have a slew of upcoming field trips, and to top it all off, the ***50th Annual SCB Symposium on October 26!*** So please save that date, because we will have something special for you all.

With the stepping down of ISCB board members, Fred Roberts, Tom Huggins, Diane Cosand, and Robert Comito, we welcome in a new cohort of board members who you can read all about below. I am excited and honored to be taking the reins as SCB President in my fifth year on the board alongside the talented and much more organized Diana Brand-Ramirez as Vice President. Thank you all for continuing to support the organization. You are what keep botany verdant and thriving in Southern California!

Cheers,

Drew Kaiser

✿ SAVE THE DATE ✿

*50th Southern California Botanists Symposium*

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*Theme:*

*The Past, Present, and Future of California Botany*

✿ October 26, 2024 ✿

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## T-Shirt Design Contest

The 2024 Southern California Botanists symposium will be our organization's 50th symposium. The theme of our symposium will be the past, present, and future of California botany (title to be announced soon). For this special occasion, we're holding another t-shirt design contest and you're invited to participate. This is your chance to highlight the past, present, and future of California botany. The winning design will be showcased on t-shirts for sale at the symposium. Here are the details: 1) one entry per person; 2) an original color line drawing only – no AI images; 3) include the symposium's title in the design; 4) submit as .jpg or .pdf format; 5) filename "Designer first name_last name_date"; 6) deadline for submittals is August 1, 2024; and 6) send submittals to Allison.rudalevige@psomas.com. Contest winner will receive a free t-shirt with their design.

Last year's winning t-shirt design, by Peri-Lee Pipkin.

## Cacti of California Workshop Recap

We had another fun and successful Cacti of California workshop the weekend of 9-10 March at UC Irvine's Steele-Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center in Borrego Springs! We had 22 attendees from a range of backgrounds and botanical experience levels. Saturday was a full day of lecture covering the basics of the Cactaceae and species profiles of all 32 species in California's cactus flora. Saturday also featured a "Cactus Admiration Station" with several species that wouldn't be seen during the field trip. The 78 acres of the research station provided the opportunity to see many others, and between those and the field trip, we were able to see the majority of California's cactus species. The weather was idyllic, especially compared to last year's workshop, which followed immediately on the heels of one of the coldest storms of last winter.

Sunday's fieldtrip through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park included West Truckhaven Trail, where we saw *Homalocephala polycepha*la subsp. *polycephala* (cottontop cactus, still listed in the Jepson as *Echinocactus polycephalus* var. *polycephalu*s), and *Mammillaria tetrancistra* (nipple cactus), along with several more common cacti and a good number of early spring annuals. Next we visited the "Mojave pocket" in Blair Valley, where we saw *Opuntia chlorotica* (pancake prickly pear) and hillsides covered with a diverse assemblage of cacti and *Agave deserti* (desert agave). After lunch in Blair Valley, we continued south to see the rare endemic *Cylindropuntia fosbergii* (pink teddybear cholla), whose entire range spans approximately 25 miles along SR-2 and even farther south to see the rare *Cylindropuntia wolfii* (Wolf's cholla), which was recently discovered by researchers at San Diego State University to be dioecious rather than gynodioecious as previously thought. It also exhibits sexual dimorphism in its anther fluorescence.

The great group of Cacti Workshop attendees with the instructor, Michelle Cloud-Hughes!

A good time was had by all! If this sounds like a workshop in which you'd be interested, keep an eye out for the announcement of the next one. Anza-Borrego's cactus flora is among the best you'll find in California and I highly recommend checking it out, if you're not already an Anza-Borrego enthusiast. Thanks to all the attendees and to the workshop committee for organizing everything, and I hope to see you all at a future Cacti of California workshop! - Michelle

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# SCB Field Trips

**Otay Mountain Wilderness Field Trip, San Diego County, April 27, 8:00-1pm, led by Jonathan Snapp-Cook**

The views you have to look forward to during the Otay Mountain field trip! Photo by Margie Mulligan.

Otay Mountain is located along the border in San Diego County dominated by chamise chaparral, southern mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, southern interior cypress forest, riparian woodland, and oak woodland. Its unique metavolcanic soils are home to near endemic taxa: *Ceanothus otayensis*, *Arctostaphylos otayensis*, *Fremontodendron mexicanum*, *Malacothamnus densiforus* var. *viscidus*, and *Hosackia crassifolia* var. *otayensis*. Other rare plants are also prominent on the mountain such as *Hesperocyparis forbesii*, *Clinopodium chandleri*, and *Baccharis vanessae*. Please bring appropriate footwear, water, sun protection, and a packaged lunch. Details on where to meet will be provided before the trip. https://tinyurl.com/uahxcwhx

*Chloropyron maritimum* subsp. *maritimum*
Photo by Margie Mulligan.

**Explore Point Magoo Lagoon and Wetlands, Ventura County, September - TBD, led by Valerie Vartanian, Rick Burgess and Trish Monro**

The largest salt marsh wetlands in Southern California is located completely within NBVC Point Mugu. The tidal marsh supports a myriad of birds, fish, marine invertebrates, and salt marsh vegetation. Valerie Vartanian is the Natural Resources Manager for wetlands on base and has worked there for 14 years. Botanists Rick Burgess and Trish Munro will co-lead the group to sites with the Federally Endangered Salt Marsh Bird's-Beak (*Chloropyron maritimum* subsp. *maritimum*), and uncommon species like Estuary Sea Blite (*Suaeda esteroa*), Arrow Weed (*Triglochin concinna*), and possibly Coulter's Goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*). We'll visit back dunes to see brackish water plant associations as well as dune plants. And yes, there may be a few birds too.

Details on where to meet will be provided before the trip.

**South Fork Meadows Botanical Exploration, San Bernardino County, June 2, 9:00-5:00, led by Duncan Bell**

The San Bernardino Mountains are a biodiversity hotspot, home to many rare endemic species found nowhere else on planet earth. Join SCB board member, and senior conservation botanist for California Botanic Garden, Duncan Bell, for a day of exploring some of the San Bernardino Mountains most unique habitats, and visiting with some of these habitats rarest plant residents. We will be exploring montane meadows, pebble-plains, and limestone canyons, with the possibility of seeing many narrowly endemic species, some threatened and endangered, most known only from this mountain range. The main areas of interest for the day will be Cushenburry Canyon, northern Baldwin Lake, and the greater Holcomb Valley region. If there is time at the end some of the other montane meadows on the south side of Big Bear Lake may also be visited. We will be traveling on rough unpaved forest service roads, so a high clearance vehicle with good tires will be required. The current trip date is Sunday June 2nd, but may be shifted a week or two based on phenology. Details on where and when to meet will be provided before the trip. https://tinyurl.com/3c8ypadu

*Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *vineum*
Photo by Duncan Bell

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## GRASS-Net Survey

Recent research found that restoration of California grasslands typically focuses on 7 key perennial species across the entire coast. To expand the restoration toolbox available in California, a UC Climate Resilience Action Seed Grant was awarded to establish a Grassland Restoration Action, Science and Stewardship Network, or “GRASS-Net”.

As a first step, the GRASS-Net developed a survey for California grassland restoration practitioners to help establish a network in coordinating grassland restoration activities and sharing restoration knowledge and practices. Please take this survey if you have implemented or planned any grassland restoration projects (not research). GRASS-Net aims to develop and share effective climate-resilient practices, facilitate seed exchanges for hard-to-access species, and develop coordinated strategies to increase plant diversity in restoration with practitioners involved in restoration projects.

Survey link: https://tinyurl.com/bddfyr9m

Please also share this link widely with any person that has implemented or planned California grassland restoration in your networks. The survey will take between 10-15 mins to complete. Please contact Dr. Justin Luong (justin.luong@humboldt.edu) with any questions.

Thank you in advance from the growing GRASS-Net including partnerships with:

The Amah Mutsun Land Trust, Audubon Canyon Ranch, CA BLM, CA Fish and Wildlife, CA NPS, California Native Grassland Association, California Native Plant Society, CalPoly Humboldt, CalPoly San Luis Obispo, Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration, Chico State University, Hedgerow Farms, Heritage Growers, Mattole Restoration Council, Pepperwood Preserve, Point Blue Conservation Science, River Partners, The Nature Conservancy, University of California Irvine Nature Reserves, and the Wiyot Tribe.

# What's in Bloom? ✿✿✿

Showcasing the beauty of California's native flora.

*Hibiscus denudatus* (Rock Hibiscus)
Malvaceae
Borrego Springs, March 2024
Photo Credit: Peri Lee Pipkin

*Diplacus bigelovii* var. *bigelovii* (Bigelow's Monkeyflower)
Phrymaceae
Borrego Springs, March 2024
Photo Credit: Peri Lee Pipkin

*Linanthus maculatus* ssp. *maculatus*
(Little San Bernadino Mountains Linanthus)
Polemoniaceae
CRPR 1B.2
February 2024
Photo Credit: Duncan Bell

*Fritillaria recurva* (Scarlet Fritillary)
Liliaceae
Rockville Hills Regional Park, March 2024
Photo Credit: Nina House

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOTANISTS
## 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| **Expenses for 2023** | |
|---|---|
| Storage | $867.00 |
| Printing (Crossosoma / Symposium) | $2,393.21 |
| Student Grants | $4,000.00 |
| Mailing | $37.05 |
| Taxes | $122.19 |
| Board Insurance | $1,782.00 |
| Symposium (speaker honorariums) | $600.00 |
| Catering  (symposium dinner) | $1,450.00 |
| Hotel for symposium speakers | $1,701.28 |
| Travel for symposium speakers | $1,122.91 |
| General symposium expenses | $889.51 |
| Promotional merchandise | $1,778.46 |
| Workshop expenses | $866.47 |
| Workshop honorarium | $1,000.00 |
| **Total Expenditures** | **$18,610.08** |

| **Income for 2023** | |
|---|---|
| Membership | $2,896.80 |
| Symposium registration (membership incl.) | $12,652.21 |
| Interest | $107.15 |
| Gifts + Symposium Auction | $1,802.76 |
| Sales | $3,123.97 |
| Publications | $22.00 |
| Workshops | $4,323.84 |
| **Total Income** | **$24,928.73** |

**For 2023 we had a gain of $6,318.65!**

- Carrie Kiel (SCB Treasurer 2023)

## SCB Grant Winners 2023

The Southern California Botanists Grant Program attracted seven strong proposals in 2023. The Grants Committee evaluated all of the proposals and as always, had to make some hard choices. This year the Grants Committee chose to award a total of four grants. This year's recipients are:

**The Susan Hobbs Grant for Field Research for 2023:**

**Garrett Goodrich,** California Botanic Garden and Claremont Graduate University. *Flora of the Jennie Lakes Wilderness, Boulder Creek Watershed, and Evans Grove Complex, Fresno and Tulare Counties, CA.* This project will inventory the entirety of the Jennie Lakes Wilderness, Boulder Creek Watershed, and Evans Grove Complex, with particular emphasis on examining meadow composition and floristic diversity with respect to fire history in the study area. The results of this study will help to fill a botanical black hole, guide conservation and management efforts, and gain understanding of these unique high-elevation plant communities.

**The Alan Romspert Grant in Desert Botany for Field Research for 2023:**

**Lilli Rain Pister,** California State University Fullerton. *Experimentally Evaluating Host Specificity in Desert Mistletoe (Phoradendron californicum)*. This project aims to evaluate the host specificity of desert mistletoe with a reciprocal transplant experiment conducted in a greenhouse, as well as construct a population density model using field and online data. The results of this study will give us a better understanding about the host specificity of this understudied species.

**The Gary Wallace Conservation Grant for 2023:**

**Charles Boissavy,** California Botanic Garden and Claremont Graduate University. *Phylogeny and Taxonomy of the Latifolia clade of Eriogonum with an Emphasis on Eriogonum nudum.* This project will look at the genetics of a poorly studied lineage of buckwheat, Eriogonum nudum which currently has 15 recognized varieties. The results will provide a better understanding of the varieties within this species, will possibly identify new varieties, and will provide information on rare varieties that can be used to guide conservation and management efforts.

**The Southern California Annual Grant for 2023:**

**Matthew Yamamoto,** California Botanic Garden and Claremont Graduate University. *A Flora of the McGee Creek Watershed, Mono County, California*. This project will inventory the entirety of the McGee Creek Watershed, an under collected area with diverse local habitats. The results will help to fill a botanical black hole and can also be used to guide conservation and management efforts in the watershed.

**Please consider donating to support the Grants Program!** The grants are supported by revenue generated by the silent auction at the annual symposium, donations, and the general funds of the SCB. Please assist us in maintaining this 41-year tradition by donating to support our grant program.

## SCB Board Election Results

**President:** Drew Kaiser
**Vice President:** Diana Brand Ramirez
**Treasurer:** Carrie Kiel
**Secretary:** Naomi Fraga

**New Board Members for the 2024-2025 Term:**

Duncan Bell
Joe DeWolf*
Gabe Elliot*
Nina House
Mel Letterman*
Ninfa Negrete Alcaraz*
Allison Rudalevige
Sunny Saroa*

*New to SCB Board

**Native Plant Gardens**

- California Botanic Garden, calbg.org
- Fullerton Arboretum, at CSU Fullerton, fullertonarboretum.org
- Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, tinyurl.com/hahpacyd
- Native Garden at Golden West College, tinyurl.com/ymfrke3z
- Nature Gardens at Natural History Museum of L.A. Co., tinyurl.com/47th7nfz
- San Diego Botanic Garden, sdbg.org
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, sbbotanicgarden.org
- UCLA Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden, botgard.ucla.edu

## SCB Grants Program

Did you know that SCB has a 41-year tradition of awarding grants?

* SCB Annual Grant
* Susan Hobbs Grant for Field Research
* Alan Romspert Grant in Desert Botany
* Jessica Mae Orozco Diversity Grant
* SCB Conservation Grant

For more information, visit socalbot.org/grants or inquire at grants@socalbot.org

Please donate to the SCB Grants Program and help fund these wonderful grants: paypal.me/socalbot?locale.x=en_US

## Membership

Join SCB or renew your existing membership online via PayPal at: socalbot.org

## Other Grants Programs

* CNPS Student Research Grants, cnps.org/education/students/grants
* Orange County Chapter CNPS Grants, occnps.org/education/grants.html
* Dean Taylor Botanical Exploration Memorial Award, norcalbotanists.org
* California grassland research, cnga.org/GRASSgrants

**Do you have something to contribute to *Leaflets*?**

**We like short informal articles, notes, sketches, & photographs. Send email to the Editor: SoCalBotNewsletter@gmail.com**

**To submit scientific articles for publication in *Crossosoma*, send email to editor@socalbot.org**